APPENDIX

Vol. 32, No. 50 December 14, 1973

IFTC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUDIOVISUAL CATALOGUING
London, England, October 30-November 2, 1973

An International Conference on Audiovisual Cataloguing which was sponsored by the International Film and Television Council (IFTC) met in London on October 30 to November 2 and was attended by 94 delegates from 20 countries and 15 international, inter-governmental, and nongovernmental organizations. Harriet Aveney of the Motion Picture Section, Prints and Photographs Division, and Vivian Schrader of the Audiovisual Section, Descriptive Cataloging Division, represented the Library of Congress at the conference. Julian Euell of the Smithsonian Institution was the other delegate from the United States.

Early in the conference it was pointed out that one of the desired results of the meeting would be a better exchange in the future of information between organizations in the audiovisual field on what is being done in the cataloging of audiovisual and nonbook materials, which would in turn lead to greater mutual awareness and the more efficient coordination of efforts.

Very early in the conference questions were raised about standards and cataloging rules for audiovisual materials and it became apparent to the delegates that this was not the purpose of the conference. At no time was there an opportunity to mention, much less discuss, the cataloging rules and manuals that have already been published.

October 31 and November 1 were devoted to discussion groups: Group 1: Production (including TV company archives and producers); Group 2: Libraries and Archives (including study and preservation issues); and Group 3: User Interests and Involvement (including educational technicians, learning resources centers, and information agencies).

In the first group, it was learned that, ideally, television producers would like to have every sequence of any documentary and television film cataloged and placed in a computer so that they could secure from one source any film produced throughout the world on any given subject. This was envisioned as an international program but it was pointed out that no funds are available; it was then suggested that perhaps each country could undertake the project.

[*Vivian L. Schrader*]

Wolfgang Klaue of the Staatliches Filmarchiv der DDR served as chairman of Group 2, discussions, Libraries and Archives. The group soon proved itself quite heterogeneous in its widely divergent interests and problems, which divided the group into three broad categories: (1) librarians from public and educational institutions whose main interests were the problems of developing standard formats and rules for cataloging multi-media materials; (2) representatives from highly specialized institutions (such as archives of photographs and slides in specialized areas and ethnographic film archives) who discussed their particular problems and presented their methods of handling them; and (3) film archivists, mostly members of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) who discussed cataloging, preservation, and documentation problems relating particularly to the processing and control of film materials, and to the international exchange of information about the holdings of individual member archives.

A "Film Minimum Data List," previously composed by IFTC, was distributed to elicit comment and discussion which could eventually result in a final document to be presented to the entire conference. The discussions and arguments which followed served rather to point out the divergent needs of the interests represented. Librarians of audiovisual centers in public and educational institutions desired relatively brief descriptions of film materials, including only the barest minimum of technical information, and with greatest attention given to the availability and suitability of film materials to their needs. The representatives of specialized institutions generally found the list unsuitable for their use. The film archivists argued for more complete technical and credit information, and urged the adoption of the principle of main entry by original title, for example, the title of first release, with added entries for alternative titles.

The group was unable to reach an agreement on the "Film Minimum Data List," and their final report included instead the following recommendations. Rules for cataloging books should not be transferred mechanically to cataloging new media. A maximum as well as a minimum film data list should be compiled. IFTC should compile and publish the minutes of the working sessions of the conference, and the articles contributed to it. IFTC should publish a new directory of audiovisual organizations. IFTC should

provide for the training of audio-visual catalogers, especially in the developing countries. Finally, a working group should be established to discuss the problems of multi-media catalogs and to confer with other international organizations interested in these problems. [*Harriet Aveney*]

Following the discussion groups, a series of final recommendations were made by the whole conference, including the establishment of an IFTC bulletin with an international circulation which would act as a vehicle for news of any developments in audiovisual media cataloging and its dissemination. It was also recommended that the bulletin or some other source could list known cataloging rules of audiovisual and nonbook media, give information about automation projects in the audiovisual field, provide information about the systems of statutory deposit of information on audiovisual materials, list all national film catalogs and all major audiovisual materials catalogs or filmographies, and issue a new and continuously updated edition of a *World Dictionary of Stockshot and Film Production Libraries.*

Emphasis was placed on the urgent need to define various forms of audiovisual media, and it was pointed out that definitions are being considered by IFLA along with rules and standards.

The group further recommended that there should be established a standing consultative body under UNESCO to promote the following measures: (1) practical trials in institutions of the minimum data list and other bibliographic descriptions with running evaluations as a means of improving and facilitating international and interdisciplinary communication and exchange; (2) the encouragement and coordination of training at national and international levels of specialists in the cataloging of audiovisual materials; (3) the investigation and development of universally acceptable multi-media cataloging standards; (4) the comparative evaluation of current practices in the analysis of subject content of audiovisual materials with a view to positive recommendations of standardization; (5) the study of methods of cataloging and retrieving information contained in photographic reproductions of works of art.

It was further recommended that measures be concerted for inducing those in the directorates and the administrations of institutions concerned with audiovisual materials, as well as those in departments of government responsible for finance, to preserve a flexible and generous policy towards the reorientation of funding as advancing technology demands it, that technical and financial assistance should be made available for the development of national cataloging schemes in developing countries, and that consideration should be given to the compilation of a reference list of sources of audiovisual materials relating to developing countries, beginning with, as a first step, such a work devoted to Africa. [*Vivian L. Schrader*]

NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF LIBRARIANS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
Philadelphia, Pa., and Trenton, N.J., October 10-12, 1973
Phoenix, Ariz., October 24-26, 1973

Two meetings in October of regional librarians for the blind and physically handicapped brought to completion the 1973 series of four regional conferences held by State and local participants in the national network of services to blind and handicapped readers sponsored by the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. (See the LC *Information Bulletin* of November 2, pp. A-194–A-196, for a report of the Midlands Conference. The Southern Regional Conference was held May 17-18.)

The Northern Regional Librarians Conference took place October 10, 11, and 12 in two locations, at the Philadelphia Regional Library and at the New Jersey Regional Library in Trenton. Those attending represented the District of Columbia and the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. Phoenix, Ariz., was the site of the Western Regional Librarians Conference on October 24, 25, and 26, which drew participants from nine States–Arizona, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Washington.

Panel discussions figured prominently in both conferences, and reflected concerns common to all of the regional libraries as well as other problems more characteristic of the separate regions. The overriding focus in the Northern Regional Conference was emphasis on the sources of support for regional libraries, reflected in the theme, "Survival in the 70's: Regional Libraries, An Endangered Species?" Acquisi-

tion and production of library materials provided the paramount theme of the Western Regional Conference.

Library of Congress staff members attending and participating in the Philadelphia meeting were Paul L. Berry, Director of the Reference Department, and from the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Frank Kurt Cylke, Chief; Charles Gallozzi, Assistant Chief; and James M. Hahn, Assistant Chief for Reader Services. In talks during the opening session, Mr. Berry traced the growth of Library of Congress support for library services for blind and physically handicapped readers, and discussed sources of direct federal funding of regional libraries under the pending Health, Education, and Welfare appropriations bill. Mr. Cylke described new directions in the national program, assuring participants that DBPH will continue to strive to provide service of a high quality to all eligible readers who wish it, on an equal basis; new sources of funding will be explored; cooperative planning will be developed to the end that all cooperating libraries will be able to assume their appropriate responsibilities; and readers' opinions will be widely sought and listened to.

Welcoming participants to the Philadelphia conference were Ernest Doerschuk, Pennsylvania State Librarian; Keith Doms, Director of the Free Library of Philadelphia; Michael P. Coyle, head of the Philadelphia Regional Library; Sue Murdock, head of the Pittsburgh Regional Library; Donald Potter, Assistant Director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Steven J. Herman, New Jersey Regional Librarian, and Roger H. McDonough, New Jersey State Librarian.

Mary Tincovich, head of the Connecticut Regional Library, presided at the first session of the conference at which Mr. Berry and Mr. Cylke spoke. Other speakers dealing with their respective views of the future of regional libraries were M. Robert Barnett, Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind, New York; Carl Lappin, Director of the American Printing House for the Blind's Instructional Materials Reference Center; and Mr. Hahn of DBPH, who described the regional libraries' role in service as seen by the Library of Congress. Mr. Barnett discussed the Foundation's growing role in the evaluation and testing of new devices for blind persons and also in the development and in the application of standards through accreditation. Mr. Lappin discussed the American Printing House's production of a new tactile dictionary, publication of the *Central Catalog of Volunteer-produced Material*, and the program for the lending of various visual aids. Another guest speaker, Sara Case of the American Library Association's Washington office, spoke at a dinner session on the topic, "Lobbying to Meet Your Goals."

Dolly Rapking, West Virginia regional librarian, presided over a panel discussion entitled "Reality—Can Regional Libraries Survive and Meet the Future?" The consensus was that, despite rising costs, cuts in funds, and administrative difficulties, regional library service would not only survive but would flourish. All participants noted the steadily increasing interest in and involvement of public libraries and volunteers in the regional library programs. Mr. Herman moderated a panel entitled "Cassette Program—Can We Handle It?" Breakage, spillage, loss, costs of duplication, and other problems received a thorough review. The consensus was that benefits, including the meeting of fluctuating demands and the ability to repair a book and return it to circulation, far outweigh the problems.

Mr. Coyle presided at a panel discussion of the union catalog. Speakers were Mr. Gallozzi, Mr. Lappin, and Jasha Levi, Associate Director of Recording for the Blind, Inc., New York. There was unanimity among the panelists about such benefits of an automated union catalog as decreased costs of searching the current plethora of printed catalogs, and the value of the existence of a single source of up-to-date information. But the panelists were not so sure that the projected DBPH automated catalog would automatically solve the problem of all duplications in volunteer efforts.

Gisela M. Titman, Massachusetts Regional Librarian, and Margaret Cheeseman, Institutional Services Supervisor of the Pennsylvania State Library, moderated panels on subregional libraries and institutional libraries, respectively. The consensus was that the growing willingness of public and institutional libraries to assume the costs of serving the blind and physically handicapped persons in their communities has gone a long way toward alleviating the anticipated dilemmas that prompted the selection of the conference theme. Sandwiched between the panel discussions were tours of the Philadelphia Regional Library and the New Jersey Regional Library, both new facilities, and demonstrations of new reading aids for the blind and physically handicapped.

Arlene Bansal, Arizona Regional Librarian, was hostess and chairperson for the Western Regional Conference attended by 30 persons, including some volunteers, from the nine State regional libraries represented. Attending from DBPH were Mr. Cylke,

Ralph Garretson, Head of the Technical Section, and Lucy T. Vecera, Assistant Head of the Selection Section, all of whom served as resource persons.

A special feature of the meeting was an all-day session devoted to problems with cassette books, especially locally produced cassettes recorded by volunteers. Mr. Garretson discussed at length the selection and use of high-speed duplicating equipment. Gerald Buttars, Utah regional librarian, conducted a discussion and demonstration of establishing and maintaining a tape duplication program. Other aspects of developing and maintaining cassette book collections that received attention were sources of the needed supplies, sources of commercial cassettes, copyright restrictions and clearances, processing techniques, and numbering systems.

Participants in another panel emphasized the importance of libraries sharing resources for blind and physically handicapped readers. Among the public library services and materials that readers can use are telephone reference service, large print collections, and music, language, and other spoken-word recordings. Within the network operated specifically for this group of readers, libraries could inform other libraries of locally produced titles that are available on interlibrary loan.

The use of volunteers in regional and subregional library activities engaged the attention of participants for an entire afternoon session. Volunteers include retired persons, students, and prisoners, and they engage in a wide range of activities such as recording and embossing materials for readers, distributing talking book machines, and visiting readers in their homes. Marcia K. Finseth, Washington regional librarian, described the work of volunteers in Radio Talking Book, a limited access service broadcast over the subchannel of Station KUOW at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to books, volunteer narrators working with the station read newspaper articles, local grocery advertisements, and other materials of interest. In Arizona, volunteers produce materials in the Spanish language and are considering a special taping of books for approximately 200 handicapped Indian children in the area. There was some discussion of suggestions for improving the technical quality of volunteer recordings.

Mr. Cylke spoke to the group on the second day of sessions, giving a review of DBPH progress and plans. He emphasized that special efforts are required to reach the large number of potential readers, particularly among the physically handicapped, many of whom are still unidentified. He also responded to questions, including several that dealt with certifying the eligibility of children with learning disabilities.

A subject of recurring interest, book selection policies and quotas for regional libraries, occupied the conference for part of one morning's session. Miss Vecera described existing DBPH selection policies and the limitations on selection sometimes imposed by the medium of choice (that is, disc, cassette, or braille), costs, and other factors. Under the division quota system in effect since January 1, all participating libraries are receiving a larger number of copies of the books in greatest demand. In a later discussion, the group agreed it would be helpful to have guidelines from DBPH on establishing new regional libraries and the kind and amount of consultation network participants can expect to receive. The group also expressed a need for division guidelines on circulation systems for regional libraries.

Conference participants toured the Arizona Talking Book Library and also the State's Talking Bookmobile, which is utilized as a traveling exhibit to display talking books and machines and publicity materials for the public. The bookmobile had been scheduled for a stop at the Arizona State Fair the week following the conference. During a concluding business meeting, librarians voted to meet in 1974 in Seattle and in Nevada in 1975.

[*James M. Hahn and Lucy T. Vecera*]